CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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ENGLISH

FINAL RECORD OF THE SIX HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FOURTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Thursday, 2 September 1993, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Mounir Zahran (Egypt)

GE.93-62389 (E)

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I declare open the 664th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

At the outset, I wish to extend a warm welcome, on behalf of the Conference and on my own behalf, to the representative of Brazil, Ambassador Luiz Palmeira Lampreia, who is attending the Conference for the first time today. I would like to recall that during a distinguished career, Ambassador Lampreia has been involved in disarmament endeavours and consultations held on this subject, either in the First Committee of the General Assembly or in the predecessor of this body, namely the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. Before taking up his duties in Geneva as Permanent Representative of his country, Ambassador Lampreia was Secretary-General and Minister of State ad interim for External Relations of Brazil. In welcoming him in our midst I pledge to him our full cooperation in the activities of the Conference.

As agreed at the Presidential consultations yesterday, on 1 September that is, I intend to put before the Conference for adoption today the proposed dates for the three parts of our 1994 session. We shall also consider a request for participation in the work of the Conference which was addressed to us by a non-member, Slovakia. After that we shall take up the report of the Special Coordinator for expansion of membership. This was submitted by Ambassador Paul O'Sullivan of Australia and, as I said, we shall consider this report and take any necessary action. This report, contained in document CD/1214, should be read in conjunction with the statement that Ambassador O'Sullivan made at the 663rd plenary meeting, which forms an integral part of this report.

I have on my list of speakers for today the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Effective International Arrangements to Assure Non-nuclear-weapon States against the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons, and then I have the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban, and then the report that I shall submit in my capacity as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency in Armaments. I now wish to give the floor to the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Effective International Arrangements to Assure Non-nuclear-weapon States against the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons, Ambassador Neagu of Romania, who will introduce the report of the Ad Hoc Committee.

Mr. NEAGU (Romania): Mr. President, allow me to express the satisfaction of my delegation at seeing you in the Chair of the Conference on Disarmament at this final, crucial stage of the CD activity. Your wealth of experience and well-known professional skills will undoubtedly help us to acknowledge significant progress in the activity of this forum as it concludes its work for this year. I am convinced that you will carry out your responsibilities here and in New York, where soon you will represent us, with your customary brio. May I also take this opportunity to express our great appreciation for the highly professional manner in which your predecessor, Ambassador José Pérez Novoa of Cuba, discharged his duties as President of the Conference?

(Mr. Neagu, Romania)

I have the honour today to present the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Effective International Arrangements to Assure Non-nuclear-weapon States against the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons (document CD/1219 of 25 August). The report is a straightforward description of how the Ad Hoc Committee organized its work and carried out its mandate during this year. This session of the Ad Hoc Committee did receive, indeed, more attention than in recent years. However, at the same time I want to stress that little progress has been registered towards establisning a common approach to reach agreement in this field of utmost importance. As emphasized in the concluding part of the report, the complex nature of the issues involved, as well as, inter alia, differing perceptions of security interests, continued to impede the work on the substance of effective arrangements and the search for a common formula. It is my personal belief, however, that that Ad Hoc Committee had, this year, a new and good start that could pave the way to successful results and a final positive outcome of its future work. This has been possible due to the atmosphere of cooperation and mutual respect that prevailed within our Committee during all our official debates and informal consultations. I take this opportunity to thank all delegations for their goodwill which enabled me to complete my task as Chairman.

A special tribute I would like to pay to the coordinators of the Eastern European and Western groups and the Group of 21 - Mr. Zoltan Martinusz, Mr. Marc Finaud and Mr. Daniel Koikai of Kenya respectively - for the untiring and close cooperation that I received from them. My appreciation and thanks go also to the representatives of China and Sweden for their assistance and understanding. I should also like to extend my gratitude to the Secretary-General of the Conference, Ambassador Berasategui, for his competent advice. I thank Mr. Vladimir Bogomolov, the Secretary of the Ad Hoc Committee, and Mrs. Dawn Scott, his assistant, for their permanent assistance and efforts to supply us expeditiously with documents and other material we worked on. Last but not least, I thank the interpreters and translators for the smooth running of the debates. With that I shall conclude my remarks on the activity of the NSA Ad Hoc Committee and I commend its report to the Conference.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I thank Ambassador Neagu, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Effective International Arrangements to Assure Non-nuclear-weapon States against the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons, for the report he has just introduced to the Conference, which is contained in document CD/1219. I also wish to thank him for the kind words addressed to me. May I convey to Ambassador Neagu and the members of the Ad Hoc Committee our congratulations on the successful conclusion of their work, which I am sure we will be able to build on at the session in 1994? I now wish to give the floor to the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban, Ambassador Tanaka of Japan, to introduce the report of that Ad Hoc Committee.

Mr. TANAKA (Japan): I have taken the floor to present the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban, which is on the table today as document CD/1220. In preparing the report we followed the recommendations of the meeting on the improved and effective functioning of the Conference,

(Mr. Tanaka, Japan)

chaired by Ambassador Kamal of Pakistan, and tried to make it as short and concise as possible, focusing on the factual progress made in the Committee during this year's session.

Let me express how pleased I am to have chaired the Committee this year. The Committee benefited from a constructive and positive atmosphere throughout the session on the issues under its mandate. The Committee has engaged in useful discussions to mark a long step towards achieving a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty. Furthermore, the decision of the Conference on 10 August (CD/1212) to give a negotiating mandate to the Committee made the Committee jump to a new stage.

This year a lot of important and unprecedented events happened. The delegation of France participated in the work of the Committee for the first time, and thus all the acknowledged nuclear-weapon States participated. We devoted the whole second part to discussions of non-seismic verification technologies, and all the meetings then enjoyed expert contributions. As a result the Committee's discussions on verification have been much enriched. Finally, we now have the decision that we will negotiate a CTBT.

I really feel honoured to be able to associate myself with the great accomplishments of the Conference, and strongly endorse the recommendation of the Committee that it be re-established at the outset of the 1994 session. Furthermore, I sincerely hope that this report, incorporated in the CD report, will be given due attention by the United Nations General Assembly so that all the Member States of the United Nations may duly appreciate the progress made in the CD this year and the important mission which the CD and its Ad Hoc Committee on an NTB will pursue next year with a view to achieving a CTBT.

Allow me now to thank all the delegations, both members and non-members of the CD, who participated in the work of the Committee, for their contribution. My special appreciation goes to the group coordinators, Australia, Mexico and the Russian Federation, as well as China and Sweden. I would also like to express my deep thanks to those delegations who contributed greatly to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee by way of providing the Committee with highly competent experts. It would be remiss of me not to mention the excellent support my delegation received from the secretariat headed by Ambassador Berasategui, and especially from Mr. Cassandra, Secretary of the Ad Hoc Committee. Finally, on behalf of the Committee I should like to thank the interpreters for their efficient translation of complicated technologies which contributed to the smooth conduct of our meetings this year.

I continue to have the honour to conduct consultations during the inter-sessional period. I am determined to do my best and I look forward to receiving equally determined cooperation from my colleagues and the secretariat.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I thank Ambassador Tanaka, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban, for introducing the report of the Committee, appearing in document CD/1220. I would like to

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extend to Ambassador Tanaka and to all the members of the Ad Hoc Committee my gratitude for what they have achieved this year, when we reached the stage of a significant breakthrough in our consideration of the question of a nuclear test ban under agenda item 1. I also wish Ambassador Tanaka and his colleagues who participated in the work of that Committee every success during the next stage, during which we have agreed there will be consultations to be conducted by Ambassador Tanaka during the inter-sessional period from September until next January.

Allow me now to proceed to introduce the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency in Armaments in my capacity as Chairman of that Committee.

(continued in English)

I have the honour to introduce the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency in Armaments. The report, circulated in document CD/1218 dated 24 August 1993, covers the activity of the Committee during this year's session. I wanted to remind you that this was the first year in which an ad hoc committee on this subject was established. Nevertheless, last year I had the pleasure of serving as Special Coordinator of the Conference on the same issue and chaired to that effect informal meetings of the CD. Although the discussions were rather preliminary last year, due to the demands of the negotiations on the chemical weapons convention, I recall stating here in plenary at the end of the 1992 session that the results achieved on this item went beyond expectations, and the report contained a rather extensive outline of the various subjects addressed. This year we entered into very substantive discussions on the complex issues surrounding this item. Eighteen working papers were presented on various in-depth aspects of the topic, and several of them contained concrete proposals for practical measures to increase openness and transparency. The secretariat prepared a number of background documents as well. The Committee followed closely its programme of work, which is reflected in the report. In the section which describes the substantive work of the 1993 session we have some rather general descriptions and remarks, followed by sections on the excessive and destabilizing accumulation of arms, military holdings and procurement through national production, arms transfers and transfer of high technology with military applications, and weapons of mass destruction, as well as conclusions and recommendations.

To the extent possible the report also adhered to the guidelines on the improved and effective functioning of the Conference, bearing in mind that since that was the first year of the Ad Hoc Committee, the views of countries should be made known, and therefore it is perhaps longer than other reports. The exchange of views and consultations were generally held in an atmosphere of cooperation and maintaining the spirit of dialogue, and I wish to thank all participating delegations, as well as the group coordinators - I refer in particular to the coordinator of the Group of 21, Cuba, the coordinator of the Western group, the United Kingdom, and the coordinator of the Eastern group, Bulgaria. I wish also to thank the delegations of China and Sweden at this juncture. There was goodwill on the part of all and a spirit of compromise

(The President)

characterized the deliberations of the Committee. The Committee benefited from the presentations of a number of experts, who added a pragmatic perspective to our proceedings, and I wish to express my appreciation to them.

Although various views were expressed on various ideas and proposals, it was agreed that an increased level of openness and transparency in the field of armaments may enhance trust and confidence among countries, help ease tension and conflicts, promote stability and strengthen regional and international peace and security. Nevertheless, it was underlined that transparency is not an end in itself, nor is it to be pursued for its own sake. It was also agreed that transparency could contribute to restraint in production and transfers of arms, thus encouraging countries not to seek levels of armaments exceeding their legitimate security requirements and taking due account of the inherent right of individual and collective self-defence as provided for in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. Transparency coupled with restraint and responsible policies of arms transfers increases confidence among countries and therefore enhances security and stability around the world. A gradual approach was advocated in the field of transparency in armaments in order to contribute to confidence-building and security among countries.

Delegations agreed in the Ad Hoc Committee that further consideration should be devoted to the issues under discussion and proposals which were made on this item. The Committee therefore recommends in its report that it should be re-established at the beginning of the 1994 session of the Conference on Disarmament.

Before concluding I wish to express my gratitude to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ambassador Berasategui, for all the assistance and cooperation provided by him to facilitate the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, to the secretary of the Committee, Mrs. Jenifer Mackby, for her invaluable assistance and cooperation during all the meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee. My thanks go also to Miss Sue Johnston for her cooperation.

Here, as representative of Egypt, I would like to inform the Conference that the Egyptian representative in New York has communicated to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Egyptian exports and imports of conventional arms during 1992 for due reflection in the report on the Register of Conventional Arms according to resolution 46/36L.

(continued in Arabic)

We have finished with the presentation of the reports from the four ad hoc committees, and we shall now proceed to listen to other members wishing to speak today. Of course, it is understood that any member wishing to comment at this stage on the reports of the four committees that have just been introduced may do so. We shall proceed with their adoption at our plenary tomorrow, 3 September. Does any delegation wish to take the floor? I recognize Ambassador Lampreia, Permanent Representative of Brazil.

Mr. LAMPREIA (Brazil): Mr. President, I am very thankful for the kind words of welcome addressed to me by you. I would also like to thank you for the very able manner with which you have presided over the Conference.

I had the privilege of being in the delegation of Brazil to the Conference on Disarmament from 1968 to 1971. In those days we finalized work on the non-proliferation Treaty, the sea-bed Treaty and we initiated work on chemical and biological weapons and the sea-bed denuclearization Treaty. It is my sincere hope that in coming back to this Committee here I will be able to contribute to the finalization of work on the comprehensive test-ban Treaty, which was already in those days one of the main goals of this Conference. I am very gratified to return to this forum, this time as head of my country's delegation. The Conference has gained much dynamism in the last few years and important progress has been made in several areas. The enormous effort employed in the negotiation of the chemical arms Convention has been fruitful and the resulting instrument constitutes not only one of the central pieces of the non-proliferation regime, but a model for future agreements on account of its universal and non-discriminatory nature.

There is an obvious need under present world conditions to proceed to a revision of the conceptual basis of the policies that support the existence of nuclear weapons and, as a corollary, the improvement of existing nuclear arsenals. The constructive attitude taken by nuclear-weapon States in extending their moratoria on nuclear tests shows that there is an accrued sensitivity to these issues. In the last few years the Conference was able to concentrate efforts on the elaboration of the chemical weapons Convention, without detriment to negotiations in other areas. Recent developments and the positive mood prevailing have made it clear to my delegation that the same procedure should now be applied to the elaboration of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty. In this regard we believe that we should set a target date for the conclusion of the CTBT. The timetable first suggested by Ambassador O'Sullivan in the 29 July plenary, although ambitious, seems to be a good proposition. In order to expedite our work and to make a target date feasible, there is an obvious need to give a broad negotiating mandate to the Ad Hoc Committee on CTB. There is also a need for the consultations with which its Chairman, Ambassador Tanaka, has been entrusted to provide a comprehensive proposal containing not only the mandate but also well-defined working procedures for the Ad Hoc Committee.

The Conference on Disarmament has for some time considered the question of expanding its membership. This year, thanks to the valuable efforts of Ambassador O'Sullivan, again, we have arrived at a reasonable proposal which we consider merits general support.

Before concluding my remarks I would like, if I may, to pay tribute to my predecessor and close friend, Ambassador Celso Amorim, who had the honour of presiding this Conference earlier this year, and who has now been appointed Minister of External Relations of Brazil, and to the Secretary-General of the Conference, my dear friend Ambassador Vicente Berasategui, whose competence and dedication I have known since my first period in this Conference.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I wish to thank Ambassador Lampreia for his statement and for his kind words. Again I wish to reiterate our welcome to him in the Conference and say how happy we are to hear that Ambassador Amorim has been appointed Minister of External Relations. I would like to convey to him through you our best wishes for success in his new function and we will always remember his positive contributions to the work of this Conference, particularly as he was its first President at the beginning of this session.

As I said earlier, we shall now proceed to adopt the dates for the three parts of the annual session of the Conference in 1994. I understand that there is a consensus that the 1994 session will be held as follows: the first part will begin on Tuesday, 25 January and go on until Thursday, 31 March 1994. The second part will begin on Monday, 16 May and end on Friday, 1 July 1994. The third part will start on Monday, 25 July and continue until Wednesday, 7 September 1994. It may of course be necessary to undertake some work in the inter-sessional period on negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty. The secretariat will make the necessary arrangements for that inter-sessional work by specifying the conference servicing requirements for meetings held at headquarters. If I see no objection I shall take it that the Conference adopts the dates that I have just indicated.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): May I now turn to the request addressed to us by the Permanent Representative of a non-member State, the Slovak Republic, to participate in the work of the Conference? This request has been circulated today attached to document CD/WP.448. I have been informed by the Permanent Representative of Slovakia that this request was received so late in the annual session of the Conference owing to the situation concerning the expansion of the membership of the Conference and also in the light of his Government's interest in participating in the informal consultations to be convened by Ambassador Tanaka, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban, during the inter-sessional period. No objection has been received to this request and, as agreed in the Presidential consultations yesterday, we can consider this request now directly in plenary, on the understanding that this procedure does not set a precedent. May I assume that the Conference agrees to invite Slovakia to participate in our work in the Conference? I see no objection.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): We shall now proceed to consider the report submitted by the Special Coordinator on the expansion of membership, Ambassador Paul O'Sullivan of Australia. This report is contained in document CD/1214, which should be considered along with the statement delivered by Ambassador O'Sullivan at the 663rd plenary meeting, which forms an integral part of his report. I give the floor to Ambassador Ledogar, representative of the United States of America.

Mr. LEDOGAR (United States of America): I am taking the floor today to discuss the question of CD membership expansion and the recommendations of the Conference's Special Coordinator contained in CD/1214. Last week, the Iranian representative took the floor to say that his Government could go along with the proposed membership expansion package, except for Israel. He then proceeded to outline Teheran's reasons for recommending the veto of Israeli membership. My Government found that statement totally unacceptable and totally inappropriate for this forum. The ensuing consultations during the past week in which attempts have been made to exclude Israel from the expansion package or to assure that, if admitted to the CD, Israel would have some sort of a blemished or second-class status, have been little short of outrageous. With that background in mind I am instructed to state the following.

The United States commends the efforts of Ambassador O'Sullivan, who has spent nine months studying and discussing the question of expanding this body. My Government congratulates him for his diligence, hard work and remarkable achievement. We also commend you, Mr. President, for your skilful and tireless efforts to manage this extremely difficult problem. We are prepared to accept the expansion package proposed in CD1214 as it is, except for Iraq. The United States Government's position in opposition to Iraqi membership reflects the unique nature of Iraqi behaviour and our deep concern about Iraq's demonstrated disregard for international norms of behaviour, particularly those related to non-proliferation. Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and failure to comply fully with United Nations Security Council resolutions require that we do all we can to keep Iraq diplomatically isolated. Moreover, Iraq's violation of its obligation under the non-proliferation Treaty and its IAEA safeguards agreement clearly demonstrate that Iraq's membership in international organizations does not translate into positive Iraqi behaviour. We believe that the focus of the international community should be on ensuring Iraqi compliance with United Nations Security Council resolutions, particularly those resolutions pertaining to Iraqi weapons of mass destruction and missile programmes. In other words, Washington is not prepared to accept at this time any CD membership package which has Iraq in it, nor will we accept any package that does not include Israel in exactly the same fashion and status as any other new or old member. Accordingly, if it is not acceptable to this body that we accept the package recommended by Ambassador O'Sullivan minus Iraq, the United States requests that the question of expansion of CD membership be kept under review during the inter-sessional period with action on CD/1214 recommendations deferred until the next session.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I thank Ambassador Ledogar, representative of the United States of America. I have taken note of his statement and I now give the floor to Ambassador Miguel Marín Bosch, representative of Mexico.

Mr. MARIN BOSCH (Mexico) (translated from Spanish): The delegation of Mexico congratulates you on the way you have been conducting the work of the Conference, Sir, and we would like to commend you in advance on what will undoubtedly be a praiseworthy performance during the forthcoming

(Mr. Marín Bosch, Mexico)

General Assembly of the United Nations. We also wish to extend the warmest welcome to our new colleague from Brazil, Ambassador Luiz Palmeira Lampreia, and we wish him every success in his activities here in Geneva.

With the transparency which characterizes the work of this Conference on Disarmament, I would like to say that what appears to be taking shape as the outcome of the exercise on which we embarked at the beginning of this year, on the expansion of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament, is unsatisfactory in every respect, a matter which the delegation of Mexico truly regrets. The section for observer States testifies to the great interest of the countries represented here in the work of the Conference on Disarmament. It is clear from the consultations carried out by Ambassador Paul O'Sullivan of Australia that practically the entire CD would like to see an increase in the membership of the Conference. One or two weeks ago we thought that we were very close to agreement in this regard. Last week we began to have doubts as to whether we were going to reach agreement. Over the past few days we again cherished the hope that at the end of this year's session we were going to have an agreement. But today, surprisingly, we see that we were mistaken in our assessment. My delegation would like to present its sincere apologies to each and every one of those States that appear on the list proposed by Ambassador O'Sullivan, and I hope that there might yet be time to change this outcome so that in January 1994 the section for member countries will contain the countries to which I have already referred and whose frustration, which will I hope be only temporary, we fully share.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I thank Ambassador Miguel Marín Bosch for his kind words. I have taken note of his statement and I now invite Ambassador Tanaka of Japan to take the floor.

Mr. TANAKA (Japan): On the question of expansion of membership, I was instructed to keep silent so long as there was consensus on the package proposal made by Ambassador O'Sullivan. But now I see that, at least at present, there is still no consensus on the package, so I must just explain the views of my Government with regard to Iraq. We think that Iraq's status is a very special one. Iraq is still sanctioned by the Security Council of the United Nations and they are under surveillance so that Iraq will never again threaten any other countries with their weapons of mass destruction and other weapons. And since they are under such special status it's still premature for us to accept as a member of this Conference on Disarmament so we had a reservation on the idea of letting Iraq into the membership of the CD, and since this question was raised this morning, I just want to introduce such views of my Government to this Conference.

The PRESIDENT: I thank Ambassador Tanaka for his statement and I have taken note of its contents.

(continued in Arabic)

I now give the floor to the representative of Austria.

Mr. LANG (Austria): Mr. President, I wish to express to you our gratitude for all the efforts you have undertaken in order to settle the issue of membership, and my special thanks go to Ambassador Paul O'Sullivan, who has laboured seriously in order to get agreement and understanding on that famous list. I am speaking now as one of the oldest candidate countries who submitted its membership back in 1982 already, and I remember myself being at that time Chargé d'affaires that I signed the letter addressed to the CD more than 11 years ago. I am listening to this debate with deep concern, not only because the membership question remains unsettled but mainly because I do believe that the credibility of the CD is at stake if it is unable after so many years of manoeuvring to agree on a truly comprehensive membership. I should add that we greet the efforts of Ambassador O'Sullivan to include in the CD new members which have a special relevance for international security, as those two countries which have been mentioned already this morning. I do believe that the Conference will do better next time.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I thank Ambassador Lang, Ambassador of Austria, for his statement and I have taken due note of it. I now give the floor to His Excellency Sirous Nasseri, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. NASSERI (Islamic Republic of Iran): I have noted carefully a statement just presented by the distinguished Ambassador of the United States in which reference was made to a statement by my delegation during the previous plenary and their positions expressed as was termed Teheran's position to have been unacceptable and outrageous. I wish to state that I am quite puzzled by this, as it is not clear for me as to whether these labels are referred to the substance of what that statement contained or if the position as defined by the Ambassador of the United States of vetoing a consensus that is considered outrageous and unacceptable Because if it is substance, what was expressed by my delegation during last plenary was that a State which in a very troubled region has opted to develop a nuclear-weapons capability and nuclear weapons and has done so with the assistance of Washington, a State which has rejected NPT, a State that has rejected to submit its nuclear facilities to IAEA safeguards is a State that needs to be questioned as far as its membership to this Conference is concerned. It is a question for me whether the United States is in favour of States developing a nuclear-weapons capability, refraining from joining the NPT and rejecting IAEA safeguards and that a position against these principles would be considered as outrageous and unacceptable for the United States. If it is a question of procedure, the so-called veto of consensus, I believe the delegation of the United States and this body need not be reminded that this has been a procedure established and exercised in a number of occasions by the various United States delegations and we understand with the statement that we just heard today that that is what is intended by the United States once again - a veto of the consensus.

Sir Michael WESTON (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland): My delegation deeply regrets the fact that the Conference has not been able to reach agreement on expansion. We believe that expansion would have greatly increased the Conference's usefulness and credibility, for

(Sir Michael Weston, United Kingdom)

example, when negotiating the CTBT next year. For our part we would have been prepared to accept Ambassador O'Sullivan's package, though we frankly never saw the logic of accepting 23 countries and excluding 8 others who also wished to join, countries which included 3 of our European partners but also States from a number of other areas of the world.

On Iraq the United Kingdom of course entirely shares the reservations expressed by the United States. We would certainly not oppose a solution which excluded Iraq if that commanded consensus. But we also see a case for including such countries as Iraq, North Korea, Ukraine and Viet Nam on the grounds that our non-proliferation goals are more likely to be advanced by drawing such States into the Conference's work rather than by leaving them out.

Mr. President, we hope that you will continue your very active efforts to resolve the outstanding problems to allow expansion to take place at the earliest opportunity. I pledge my delegation's full support in your efforts.

Mr. NORBERG (Sweden): I want to pay tribute to Ambassador O'Sullivan of Australia for his skilfulness in dealing with the very difficult and longstanding question of the expansion of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament. My delegation believes that the proposal he has come up with is a reasonable one that should gain consensus within the Conference. I also want to pay tribute to you yourself, Mr. President, who have pursued intensive consultations within the Conference to achieve consensus. Therefore, it is with a certain degree of sadness I note that it now seems that the consensus aimed at and nearly attained is about to slip away because 2 countries out of 37 could not approve in its entirety the list proposed by Ambassador O'Sullivan. This would be indeed a sad result or rather a non-result of our protracted efforts.

It has been said many times in this forum, also by my delegation, that the expansion of the CD is long overdue. In the new situation in the world of today a broader CD is necessary to reflect new realities. As we are so close to attaining our goal, this is not the time to give up. Like my British colleague I would like to appeal to you, Mr. President, to continue intensive consultations aiming at finding a solution to this impasse.

Mr. BISLEY (New Zealand): Mr. President, this is the first time my delegation has taken the floor during your presidency. I congratulate on assuming that post and in particular on the leadership you've shown in guiding the Conference to a conclusion on its final important task for the year. You have the New Zealand delegation's full support.

On the first day of the first session of the CD this year, the New Zealand Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control addressed the 37 members of this Conference on the security challenges of a changing world. He suggested that the CD would need to find a form in which it could continue to meet our collective aspirations if it was retain a central place in the United Nations machinery as the single multilateral negotiating body in the field of disarmament. The CD now has that opportunity. It has before it a

(Mr. Bisley, New Zealand)

concrete solution to the question of its membership in the form of the list tabled on 12 August by Ambassador O'Sullivan as Special Coordinator and his further statement delivered last week. He has carried out this difficult and important responsibility with the cooperation of all members of the CD. We believe that there is a widespread desire among CD members to resolve this question and that a solution is possible if each member remains determined to seek it. We do not believe that the search for a solution in this session should be abandoned now. The CD's expansion is also a priority for the international community. The CD's special status as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating body will be strengthened by expansion. Failure to expand for the second time could only limit both the effectiveness of the CD and the contribution that many countries can make to achieving further progress on disarmament and arms control matters. With CTBT negotiations on the horizon a failure to expand would be all the more damaging for the CD. New Zealand is pleased to be among those on the list proposed by Ambassador O'Sullivan for the first phase of the CD's expansion. We are ready to assume the responsibilities of full membership and we are grateful to all those who have worked with patience and determination for a solution. We now urge the CD to continue in this session to work on the long-awaited decision to expand its membership. Only then will the countries which have over the years shown their commitment to international disarmament efforts be able to participate fully and as equals.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I thank Ambassador Bisley of New Zealand for his statement and the kind words addressed to the President of the Conference. I now give the floor to Mr. Ahmad Kamal, Ambassador of Pakistan.

Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan): My delegation recognizes and respects the sovereign right of all States to take positions which are in their vital national interest and which may differ from the national positions of other States. In the case of the CD, where the rule of consensus is fundamental and deep-rooted, even a single differing opinion seems to stand out rather dramatically, but that is a necessary consequence of a rule to which all attach importance at present. On the subject of the expansion of the CD, my delegation believes that expansion is essential in order to have the membership of the CD better reflect the many changes that have taken place in the world over the past 15 years. We had hoped that this expansion could be agreed upon this year. We hope now that in keeping this important subject under review the Conference will take the greatest of care to attempt an early and positive decision on the subject through a process of open consultations under your guidance during the inter-sessional period. Meanwhile, my delegation sympathizes with and shares the frustrations of the many States whose membership applications will stay undecided for an even longer period of time.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I thank Ambassador Ahmad Kamal of Pakistan for his statement and for the confidence he has expressed in the Chair, and I now give the floor to Mr. Joaquín Pérez-Villanueva, representative of Spain.

Mr. PEREZ-VILLANUEVA (Spain) (translated from Spanish): I would like to begin by expressing my gratitude and that of my Government to you, Sir, for your dauntless efforts, your generous disposition and your warmth and candidness in giving this Spanish delegation advice on various occasions and also throughout this entire process of the expansion of the Conference in which we are engaged. Therefore, I would like to place on record the profound gratitude that Spain feels towards you, Sir. Second, I would also like to place formally on record the great debt of gratitude that Spain will always have towards Ambassador O'Sullivan, who truly worked to the utmost in connection with the expansion of this Conference, demonstrating yet again his professional skills, his imagination and his capacity for hard work.

The expansion of the Conference is an important and extraordinarily difficult subject. It would be impossible to imagine that, if it were not, the Conference could not have been capable of resolving it in the very long period that has elapsed since the last time new members were admitted as full members into the Conference. Today, before you and before the members of the Conference on Disarmament, whose sole difference, ultimately, vis-à-vis this modest observer, is the power of veto, I would like to make an appeal. An appeal based, on the one hand, on an act of faith, and on a rational description of the circumstances in which the Conference finds itself and the future that awaits it. With the deepest respect - and I would like to emphasize this - with the deepest respect for the positions held by the member countries of the Conference in an absolutely legitimate way in their bilateral relations with other countries, my delegation would like to say the following. It is clear, and not to us alone, that the expansion of the Conference is of fundamental importance for the Conference itself. Much more, I would say, than for those of us who have been on the "waiting list", if I may put it like that, for some 10 or 12 years. This is, then, a matter of fundamental significance for the Conference itself, and this has just been emphasized by the Ambassador of Austria, among others. Therefore, a procedure was launched in this Conference eight months ago, entrusted to a person of recognized professional qualities, to address this process directly and resolve it and, if I may say so, resolve it once and for all.

I believe, and this ties up with what I was saying at the beginning, this ties up with the element of faith, I believe that there is still time, and therefore I would like to say the following. In our view, it is not desirable, here and now, to inject into the Conference on Disarmament elements of bilateral relations with other countries. From the point of view of procedure and timing, I would say it is not desirable either to continue with the discussion that has started here about the substance and the form of the expansion of the Conference, and it is not desirable in our view because there is still a possibility in our opinion for reaching agreement. Hence this process has not come to an end. Here and now, in our view, the Conference on Disarmament needs credibility for its future and calmness at this moment. I would like to endorse the words uttered by the Ambassador of New Zealand a moment ago and emphasize once again that in my view we should not give up now, whatever the difficulties may be, and my delegation is fully aware that these are serious difficulties. Let us not give up here and now, and let us not

(Mr. Pérez-Villanueva, Spain)

stop the process. By way of conclusion, I would like to add that outside this building, in which perhaps, and I am saying perhaps because I am not certain, outside this building the reasons why the expansion of the Conference might fail today or tomorrow, so close to success, might not be understood. It would in fact be very difficult to explain why a veto for some entails the exclusion of others.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I thank Ambassador Pérez-Villanueva for his statement and for the confidence he expressed in the Chair and his kind words addressed to me. I now give the floor to the representative of Chile, Ambassador Ernesto Tironi.

Mr. TIRONI (Chile) (translated from Spanish): Mr. President, as I am taking the floor for the first time under your presidency I would like to thank you for the remarkable work that you have done in the recent period in such a delicate phase of work on the expansion of this Conference. I would also like to place on record our profound gratitude for the work done by Ambassador O'Sullivan during this period with skill, intelligence and above all courage. We would also like to express our appreciation to all the delegations, each and every one of those that have expressed their solidarity with countries such as mine that feel extremely frustrated today at the dashing of their aspirations to work alongside the members in this Conference on Disarmament. I do not wish to analyse the merits or the demerits of this or other proposals. We think that often it is best to leave well alone, and that there is no perfect solution but there are possible solutions. At all events we think it is very clear that the decision not to expand the Conference on Disarmament is going to be construed by the world, by public opinion, by the press tomorrow as something that certainly does not strengthen this Conference on Disarmament, but what is more serious, it does not strengthen world peace, it does not help to release the resources we need for development and to reduce poverty in the world. We think, as other delegations have said before, that with goodwill and with the determination to look to the future, to the things that unite us, and not to the past and to things that previously divided us, it is possible to find a solution. Thanks to the efforts of each of you, we are in a position today to continue this effort and we would like to join those who have urged us before, the Ambassadors of Austria, New Zealand and Spain, not to give up. Specifically and in conclusion, my delegation would like to urge you, Sir, and through you all the other delegates, to ensure that we continue and you continue the efforts in the remaining hours and days to find a formula that will finally strengthen world peace.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I thank Ambassador Tironi, the Permanent Representative of Chile, for his kind words addressed to the presidency and the confidence he expressed in the Chair. I now give the floor to the representative of Finland, Mr. Veltheim.

Mr. VELTHEIM (Finland): I would like to express first the satisfaction of my delegation for the leadership that you, Mr. President, have shown in efforts to bring the review of the CD membership patiently towards a successful conclusion at this session. Furthermore, I want to thank the

(Mr. Veltheim, Finland)

Special Coordinator, Ambassador O'Sullivan, who had a difficult task of arriving through careful and delicate preparatory work at a concrete proposal to expand the present composition of the CD. We never had illusions about the complex nature of this task. During the past year the process of reviewing the membership of the Conference has been carried forward with determination, and as we understand, the report of the Special Coordinator is the only concrete solution available at this point. We highly regret that it is not yet possible to finalize this stage of the review so that the CD could concentrate on the substantive issues it is facing in the future. It is evident that the expansion package contains a number of elements with which one or other individual delegation might have difficulties. The report of the Coordinator does not represent a perfect solution in every detail for everyone. A lot of particular difficulties have been overcome and similarly we hope that the remaining difficulties would not prevent the expansion. We are convinced that nobody wants this process to become another failed attempt for the CD. We all should ask ourselves: would the prospects for reaching an agreement on expansion be better during next year or the subsequent years than they are today? What prospects would there be after another failure? As we have understood here, there is a widely shared wish within the CD delegations that this step must be concluded now during the year 1993. This is also my understanding of what the international community is waiting for. It is widely recognized that a more global approach is needed in many of the current challenges - above all in the negotiations on a nuclear test ban, but also in those issues that will follow. An agreement on expansion would highlight the multilateral approach towards disarmament. With the new composition the CD is better equipped to deal with the new tasks of the international community. As many, if not all, have emphasized, the expansion would strengthen the role of CD as the single global disarmament negotiating forum and make it a more contemporary body. To fail to expand would be detrimental and would weaken this special status. We urge, therefore, that the Conference should continue to seek a result, as early as possible and preferably still before the start of the next session, to the question of expansion.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I thank the distinguished representative of Finland for his statement and for his kind words addressed to the Chair. I now give the floor to Ambassador Wagenmakers, representative of the Netherlands.

Mr. WAGENMAKERS (Netherlands): I would like to state the position of my delegation on the document contained in CD/1214, the recommendations of the Special Coordinator on the matter of CD membership. I would start by paying tribute to the great accomplishments of our Special Coordinator, Ambassador O'Sullivan of Australia. We are very much aware of the complex nature of the matter he had to deal with; we would like to thank him all the more for his great degree of professionalism and leadership. We would also like to thank you, President Zahran, for your tireless efforts, what with trying to come to a satisfactory solution in these last concluding days of our 1993 session.

(Mr. Wagenmakers, Netherlands)

The Netherlands could have gone along with the package, with the recommendations of our Special Coordinator, although frankly we were not convinced of the logic of going for 23 rather than for 31 new members, the last number being that of those States which had applied. Our position of the Netherlands delegation remains as outlined by the Netherlands Minister for Foreign Affairs in the CD plenary on 3 June last. My Minister recommended a substantial but controlled expansion by roughly 30 new States. Thus the Conference on Disarmament would have avoided a selection which excluded, inter alia, some European partners of the Netherlands. I would strongly plead that the matter of CD membership be kept under review in the months to come. Delegations should continue their consultations so that the Conference can solve this issue at its next session. The Netherlands delegation will try its utmost to help bringing about a solution which holds out prospects for the proper completion of the arms control agenda for the 1990s.

Mr. HLAING (Myanmar): Mr. President, as I am taking the floor for the first time under your presidency, allow me to begin by paying a warm tribute to you for the admirable manner in which you have guided the work of the CD during the concluding part of its 1993 session. We should also like to extend our warm congratulations to Ambassador Neagu, Ambassador Tanaka and to you, Sir, for the contribution to the work of the ad hoc committees on NSA, NTB and TIA, which all of you have chaired respectively. The purpose of my intervention this morning is to express the view of my delegation on the important subject of the expansion of the membership of the CD. My delegation would like to place on record our sincere thanks to Ambassador Paul O'Sullivan, Special Coordinator for the expansion of the CD membership, for his tireless efforts in those very difficult and complex tasks. We feel that he has done a good job. We have already made known our endorsement of his recommendations contained in this report. We hope that the expansion of the membership of the CD will materialize in the near future.

Mr. GUTIERREZ (Peru) (translated from Spanish): As the delegation of Peru is taking the floor in the Conference on Disarmament for the first time under your presidency, I would like on behalf of my country to express profound admiration for the very efficient and skilful way in which you have led this body. Truly for me, personally, this comes as no surprise, because I have seen you work with the same efficiency in such disparate bodies as GATT, WIPO and so forth. Our delegation must express its deep appreciation for the work accomplished by the Special Coordinator for the topic of the expansion of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament, Ambassador Paul O'Sullivan. We consider that the report presented by him, contained in document CD/1214, as well as the additional statements he made last 26 August, are an excellent outcome of the consultations he held to achieve the expansion of the Conference. In this regard, I have clear instructions to say that my country unconditionally supports the report presented by Ambassador O'Sullivan. It is Peru's conviction that excluding from the Conference countries that are significant in security terms in the regional and worldwide context is not the best way to uphold the relevance of this Conference as the sole multilateral negotiating forum on disarmament in the United Nations system. In that regard I would like to combine Peru's position with that expressed earlier, to the effect that it is necessary to overcome urgently the problem we are facing.

(Mr. Gutiérrez, Peru)

In this regard I would like to urge the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament, in the person of Ambassador Zahran, with the cooperation of the Special Coordinator, to ensure that consultations take place in order to overcome the deadlock that we are currently facing within a deadline limited to the year 1993.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I thank the representative of Peru for his kind words addressed to the Chair and for his confidence. Now I invite the representative of the Russian Federation to take the floor.

Mr. ZEMSKOV (Russian Federation) (translated from Russian): The discussion that has taken place in our meeting shows how serious the question of the expansion of the membership of our Conference on Disarmament has become. I think we are now approaching the moment of truth, when our forum has to show how capable it is of playing a sufficiently authoritative and responsible role in the field of disarmament. We share the sense of disappointment of many applicants for membership of the Conference, and also that of members of the Conference who have supported them. But at the same time we feel that the Conference has not yet said the last word on this subject. And I am convinced that reason and a sense of proportion will prevail and that we will finally arrive at the only sensible solution - the expansion of the membership of the Conference.

In this connection our delegation thinks that the proposal regarding the expansion of the membership of the Conference made by the Special Coordinator, the Ambassador of Australia, Paul O'Sullivan, is reasonable and appropriate to the realities of the present situation. And our delegation would be prepared to join a consensus on that list. Of course we can accept possible doubts and concerns that have been voiced by individual members of the Conference with respect to particular candidates for membership in this forum. But at the same time I think it would be right to ask whether a move to exclude a particular State or prevent a particular State from becoming a member of the Conference would help to promote a solution to the problems facing us or to overcome the concerns expressed by such States. From the very outset we have regarded the Conference on Disarmament as a forum, indeed the sole forum, existing in the disarmament arena which deals pragmatically with developing and implementing a series of legally binding agreements and understandings. Consequently, everything connected with these concrete questions should be given pride of place in the work of our organization. Other issues can and should be addressed, but without introducing into these matters what we conceive in terms of the Conference on Disarmament. Once again I join those who have already spoken in appealing to you, Mr. President, Mr. Paul O'Sullivan, and other distinguished colleagues who were involved in work on this question to make the necessary efforts to find a solution to the situation that has developed and, if possible, reach a consensus on the further expansion of the membership of the Conference. Once again I repeat - from our standpoint this issue is of fundamental importance for the future work of our forum.

Mr. BESANCENOT (France) (translated from French): Mr. President, allow me at the outset to associate myself with the various compliments that have been extended to you for the way you have steered our efforts on this very delicate issue and the personal role you have played in trying to achieve the outcome that was wished for by the overwhelming majority. I would also like to thank Ambassador O'Sullivan of Australia most warmly for the considerable amount of work that he accomplished and the proposal he has presented to us. We all know that this is the result of an extremely delicate compromise. We all know that several delegations, possibly most delegations, would have had preferences and might have preferred somewhat different formulas. But we all know too that the proposal made today is apparently the only possible one that could produce a consensus. We also know that the overwhelming majority are aware that in present circumstances this is the only possible formula, and when I speak of an overwhelming majority I think we could say near-unanimity. It would be quite inconceivable for a number of countries that have been candidates for many years, and are particularly well qualified to become members, to be prevented from doing so because of a last-minute hitch. It should be clear, in my view, that if we give up today, or if we take the path of protracted discussions, if we open up the whole question again, we are in fact likely to defer any solution ad infinitum. It is clear that today there is an opportunity to be grasped, it is now, and it is up to us to grasp it. If we fail to do so, we should be fully aware that we will be striking a very serious blow at the credibility of the Conference on Disarmament, particularly at a time when it is embarking on a very important process, that of negotiating a nuclear-test-ban treaty. We must be aware that those who are opposed to this consensus will in fact bear particular responsibility in terms of the credibility of the Conference on Disarmament and its future work. Let us also be aware that if we do not achieve an outcome now, this will naturally give rise to frustrations which will legitimately impede the future work of the Conference substantially. We have heard a number of statements this morning, we have heard views of justifiable distress, we have heard much regret expressed, we have also been witnesses to the shedding of what in French are called crocodile tears. But let us be frank with one another. We think that in fact it is not yet time for the shedding of crocodile tears. We also think that basically it is still possible to find a solution. And here in order to respond to certain arguments I would just like to recall a few facts. We must be aware that some member States are not parties to the major arms control or disarmament treaties such as the non-proliferation Treaty, such as the Convention on biological weapons or the Convention on chemical weapons. We also know that some member States do not have diplomatic relations with other member States, and yet this situation has not prevented the Conference from functioning hitherto, or from negotiating or reaching agreements. What was true in the old formula could also apply fully with a new formula, so we hope that there is still time to find a solution and we would bear a very heavy burden of responsibility if we lose the momentum that was created by the Ambassador of Australia's proposal. Hence we think that there is still a possibility if you, Mr. President, would take it on yourself to initiate very rapidly consultations with the few delegations that are posing a problem in achieving consensus, and if we are not mistaken there will be another meeting of the Conference on Disarmament tomorrow, another plenary,

(Mr. Besancenot, France)

and there may be still time, if we embark rapidly on such consultations, it could be possible to find a solution. We are in your hands, Mr. President. We hope that there is still time not to miss this unique opportunity.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I thank Mr. Besancenot for his kind words and his positive contribution. I now give the floor to the representative of Norway.

Mr. BERNHARDSEN (Norway): Since this is the first time I take the floor under your presidency, let me congratulate you on your assumption of this important office. Your continued firm guidance of the Conference will, we are sure, lead to a satisfactory outcome of these proceedings.

The Conference on Disarmament has discussed expansion of its membership for more than 10 years without being able to come to an agreement. My delegation was therefore pleased to see the results of Ambassador O'Sullivan's delicate consultations, which for the second time put Norway on a list of possible new members. We are indeed honoured to be invited to join the CD as full members. My country has on many occasions declared our readiness to take on the responsibilities that follow from full membership. The CD is shortly to engage in crucial negotiations on a nuclear test ban. We believe that the CD would have benefited from a broader membership in these as well as in other important subjects on the CD's agenda. Norway, we are sure, could make substantial contributions to these negotiations. Obviously my delegation as well as my authorities in Oslo are greatly disappointed at seeing yet another opportunity slip away for reaching agreement on an expansion of the CD. We believe the package proposed by Ambassador O'Sullivan under the circumstances may be the closest possible to a consensus and that this indeed is a unique opportunity to achieve a most overdue expansion of the Conference. My delegation still hopes that a solution could be found in the hours remaining of this session.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I thank the representative of Norway for his statement and for the compliments to the Chair, and I now call on Ambassador Abdelamid Semichi of Algeria.

Mr. SEMICHI (Algeria) (translated from French): At this stage in our consultations I would like to express Algeria's point of view on the many problems involved in the expansion of the Conference on Disarmament. The problem of the expansion of the Conference on Disarmament has always faced our Conference, but never with the same urgency as that which we have witnessed since one of the most spectacular achievements of this Conference, which is that of producing the international chemical weapons Convention. From that time on each of the members of the Conference on Disarmament has held the deep-seated conviction that the time was ripe, and so was the international situation, for the future composition of the Conference on Disarmament to reflect the new international state of affairs. The interest expressed by very many delegations in becoming full members of the Conference, the tacit acceptance by all the members of the Conference regarding enlargement having been secured after a first round of consultations conducted by Ambassador Servais and Ambassador Amorim, and then the designation of a

(Mr. Semichi, Algeria)

Special Coordinator in the person of Ambassador O'Sullivan, led us all to give him the greatest possible support to enable him to conduct his work successfully. We were, of course, all convinced, and the Algerian delegation too, that there were thorny issues in this problem of the expansion of the Conference, and we drew Mr. O'Sullivan's attention, as the Algerian delegation, to certain very precise aspects that were going to give rise to problems. But at no point in time, in the view of my delegation, was the expansion of the Conference on Disarmament made dependent on the solution of a particular point concerning a given delegation. In the Algerian delegation we have always refused - and I believe this is the case for all members of the CD - to accept that there is a black sheep that must never be accepted in the Conference on Disarmament. The Algerian delegation wishes to make it clear that it rejects this approach, the use of this black sheep approach by the Conference on Disarmament to prevent a given country from entering the Conference at the time of the expansion. Today we have one or two that can be listed as black sheep; tomorrow or in a year's time other black sheep may emerge that will block for ever any idea of enlarging the Conference on Disarmament.

The Algerian delegation has worked in a straightforward and committed way with the Australian delegation to try to express its own preoccupations in this expansion process. Once Ambassador O'Sullivan's consultations had been completed we expressed our support and our acceptance of the results he had obtained. We reacted spontaneously last week when we witnessed a situation that could jeopardize the approach which has always been that of the democratic expansion of the Conference on Disarmament; we think that this is the only path that is still open to us to bring about such an expansion. We must reject any conditions relating to such and such a State to be or not to be a member of the Conference on Disarmament. The approach must be an approach involving successive phases, and one that could lead to the broadest possible participation in this Conference on Disarmament by countries that so wish and are prepared to accept its discipline. Algeria, for its part, expresses its solidarity with all the countries without any exception that have applied for membership of the Conference on Disarmament. It understands their concern. It will continue to work to ensure that the Conference on Disarmament becomes an expanded, more democratic negotiating forum that reflects the new world realities.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I thank Ambassador Semichi for his statement. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that a number of delegations have asked for the floor. I will read out the list of those countries and I would ask you please to make your statements brief so that we can finish our work by 1 p.m. because we have other matters to discuss at this plenary. The list is as follows: Germany, India, Canada, Nigeria, Venezuela, Ireland, Greece and Cuba. Also Colombia, Turkey, China, Republic of Korea, Poland, Egypt and Morocco. Might I first ask if there are any other delegations who would like to take the floor on the item under discussion? If not, I will now close the list of speakers. The list is closed, and I would urge you to be as brief as possible so that we can finish all the business on our agenda for this plenary meeting. Ambassador Hoffmann of Germany has the floor now.

Mr. HOFFMANN (Germany): Mr. President, in spite of the shortness of time let me state once again how pleased my delegation is to see you presiding over our work. My delegation is prepared to support the report of the Special Coordinator on membership. Indeed, Ambassador O'Sullivan has accomplished his task in a most laudable way. In spite of the complexities involved, his report offers a sound and practicable solution to the expansion issue. In a balanced way his report identifies a solid range of new members. I have to mention, however, that Germany regrets that eight applicants, among them its European partners Greece, Ireland and Portugal, are not included in the list. As previously stated, Germany would have been prepared to grant membership to all those who have applied and are ready to participate in the Conference's work. I hope sincerely that this is not the end of our endeavours to extend membership. As a way forward I therefore support those speakers who have asked you to continue consultations on the matter with a view to having a positive decision at the earliest possible moment.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I thank Ambassador Wolfgang Hoffmann of Germany for his statement and for his kind words addressed to me. I now give the floor to Ambassador Chandra of India.

Mr. CHANDRA (India): At the outset I would like to thank you, Sir, for the masterly fashion in which you have been conducting the deliberations of the Conference on Disarmament at a particularly delicate and difficult stage. I would also like to place on record our delegation's deep appreciation for the manner in which Ambassador O'Sullivan had been working and had prepared his package proposal on the expansion. He has worked hard, he has worked with transparent sincerity and with the professionalism for which we all admire him. The exercise that was undertaken by him entailed intensive discussions with every delegation on several occasions and is the product of those endeavours. Having said that, we do recognize that the package proposed by him was not a perfect one from each one of our viewpoints. Obviously each delegation here would have put out a better package from their respective viewpoints. As the Conference is aware, our stand on expansion has been that it should be calibrated and equitable, taking into account geographical balance. As we had pointed out on earlier occasions, however, we could have gone along with the package proposed by Ambassador O'Sullivan, as we felt that it was a reasonable one and which took into account the entire complexity of all the issues involved. The matter was delicate, the expansion proposal is an extremely difficult one, but we think that the proposal put out by Ambassador O'Sullivan could have been acceptable. We share the thoughts expressed by many here, many of the previous speakers, that the issue is of such great importance that every effort should be made to try and see that this package gets through. Mr. Chairman, I cannot think of anyone better than yourself who could undertake this exercise, and we are therefore very pleased that you are in the Chair because the success of this package if it has to be salvaged can be done under your leadership. In case, however, we do not succeed in this exercise, we hope that the expansion could be developed for 1994.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I thank Ambassador Chandra of India for his statement and in particular for the confidence he expressed in my undertaking of this mission, which, if I were to do so, I hope would involve the participation, with your approval, of Ambassador O'Sullivan, because he really is the most skilled among us on this particular subject. I now give the floor to the representative of Canada.

Mr. DUBOIS (Canada): Mr. President, my delegation wishes to express its profound regret that our Conference has been unable to reach consensus on a list of countries to be added to its very limited membership; this action would have made the Conference on Disarmament a more credible body on the eve of some of the most important negotiations it has conducted since its creation. It would have reflected more closely the disarmament environment at the end of this millennium. Although I will refrain from recriminations, I must recall that if we had been able to adopt the principle of including all States who formally apply to join by a certain cut-off date and in accordance with established procedure, we might have been more successful. My delegation expressed and explained this principle in February, March and May of this year. In a word, we believe that exclusivity can no longer be justified. No State or States should be able to deny the right of other States to contribute fully to negotiations on matters of international security which the applicant States consider affect them. In the light of the setback the Conference on Disarmament has just experienced, my delegation looks forward to continue the process started at this session that may now have to be formally completed at our next session in 1994, in the hope that we can welcome quickly all those who wish to join. I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank Ambassador O'Sullivan for his efforts at trying to achieve a more representative Conference on Disarmament. He has spared no effort and the temporary failure of his efforts is wholly outside his control. Today's setback constitutes in our view only a hiatus or postponement and should not discourage him nor any one of us from addressing this matter as soon as possible. We look forward to your continued efforts, Mr. President, to try to find a solution to the extension of the CD. The dialogue is not broken, and you can count on our support to achieve consensus on this question.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I thank Mr. Dubois, representative of Canada, for his statement and in particular for the kind words addressed to the Chair, and I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Nigeria.

Mr. ADEKEYE (Nigeria): Mr. President, the Nigerian delegation wishes to express its gratitude to you for the able manner in which you have guided the deliberation of the Conference. I should also like to place on record our appreciation for the commendable efforts Ambassador Paul O'Sullivan has made in discharging his difficult responsibilities. Nigeria fully supports its recommendation for limited expansion of membership. The Nigerian delegation regrets the inability of the Conference to achieve a breakthrough on the question of expansion of membership. We sincerely hope that intensive consultation will continue under your effective leadership in order to find a lasting solution to the problem. My delegation pledges its cooperation towards this end.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I thank the representative of Nigeria for his statement and for his kind words addressed to me, and I now call on the representative of Venezuela.

Mr. MENDEZ (Venezuela) (translated from Spanish): First of all, Sir, my delegation wishes to express its satisfaction at seeing you at the helm of the Conference on Disarmament in this final phase. We would now like to express our gratitude to your predecessor, Ambassador Pérez Novoa, for the remarkable work he did during his term as President of the Conference on Disarmament. My delegation also regrets that the emergence of this stalemate diminishes the legitimate hopes of many States to become members of the Conference on Disarmament in 1994. We think that the formula presented by Ambassador O'Sullivan is the result of a complex process of consultations, in which he seeks some way of adapting the Conference on Disarmament to the constantly changing international system. We are convinced that Ambassador O'Sullivan's proposal remains a sound basis for achieving consensus. Lastly, we would like to place on record our appreciation for the efforts made by Ambassador O'Sullivan over a period of nine months in order to try and make the Conference more representative.

Mr. SWIFT (Ireland): Chairman, since this is the first occasion on which my delegation has addressed the Conference under your presidency, may I like others offer you my congratulations on your conduct of this important office and on the impressive qualities of energy and leadership you have brought to it? Like other delegations which have spoken on this topic, I regret that even a limited expansion of CD membership is apparently not immediately possible. I agree that the search for a solution on the basis proposed by Ambassador O'Sullivan or on a marginally wider basis should and must be continued from now. A failure to expand the Conference in a credible fashion at this stage does not, my delegation feels, improve the standing of our Conference or the prospects of its achieving its shared aims and objectives. We accept that the task which Ambassador O'Sullivan was presented with was a complex and very delicate one, and we appreciate the efforts which he has made. We have also taken careful note of his statements made in the plenary, both in presenting his report on 12 August, and in clarifying it further on the 26th of the same month. It does not take away from this tribute if I have to admit to a sense of disappointment that Ambassador O'Sullivan did not find it possible to include Ireland among the countries proposed for membership. Like others, we are not convinced that his package formula was fully perfect: our position of principle has always been that membership should be open to all States who wish to join. We have been a candidate since 1982; we have participated regularly in the work of the Conference and, as we have already said in this forum, we believe that we could possibly make a positive contribution to its work. Ireland will continue to maintain its interest in membership and in the meantime to participate as a non-member in the work of the Conference. Finally, I should like to express the sincere appreciation of my authorities to those members of the Conference who in the course of the past year, and some indeed today, conveyed their support for our candidature both to us and publicly.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I thank Ambassador Swift of Ireland for his statement and his kind words and I now call on the representative of Greece.

Mr. YANTAIS (Greece) (translated form French): I had occasion to pay tribute to your outstanding presidency, Sir, in the context of another committee, that on transparency in armaments, and I am very happy to be able to do likewise today in plenary. Reference has been made to frustration. Well, we are frustrated on two counts, because we were not even selected, despite a very long wait for the proposal made by Ambassador O'Sullivan, whom we would nevertheless like to thank because his report contains a dynamic element that gives us some hope for a just solution with respect to us very shortly. It must be said that even if a solution is found involving acceptance of the compromise, our country would still remain outside. This indeed is the case referred to by the Ambassadors to whom I would like to express our profound gratitude and thanks. Allow me to add a few remarks concerning the report itself. The proposed solution, that a relatively small number of candidates should be admitted, rather than admitting all and sundry, thus acknowledges the need for an option based on the criteria of a global balance in geostrategic terms. I must place on record our complete disagreement with this approach. Firstly, because a conference that seeks to be universal should open itself up to universal participation. Restricted membership with all the constraints stemming from equitable geographical distribution is appropriate only in bodies responsible for the day-to-day running of our organizations whether they are called executive boards or whatever. Secondly, the cornerstone of the functioning of the Conference is the principle of consensus, the application of which prevents a country from being committed against its will because it can use its right of veto. Geographical balance would have its place in the event of a vote where a group of countries could impose their will on another, but not in the case at hand, where consensus is de rigueur, as we have just seen. Thirdly and lastly, because the concept of a global balance in geostrategic terms is vague in itself. If it represents in some sense the sum of regional balances, then I must deplore the absence of my country from the system of balance in its geographical region, which amounts to denying it the role that belongs to it in the formation of that balance.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I thank the representative of Greece for his statement and for his kind words to the Chair, and I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Cuba.

Mrs. BAUTA SOLES (Cuba) (translated from Spanish): Very briefly, I have asked for the floor to place on record the appreciation of the Cuban delegation for the work that has been carried out by the Special Coordinator for the issue of expansion of the Conference. We would also like to place on record our gratitude for the support that you have given him, Sir, in his efforts to resolve the important matter of expansion. This morning we share the concern expressed by other speakers regarding the consequences that might stem from an unfortunate outcome to this issue in the Conference on Disarmament. The criteria on which Ambassador O'Sullivan based his proposal

(Mrs. Bauta Solés, Cuba)

seemed to us from the outset to be politically well chosen, and this is why his proposal contained today in document CD/1214 is acceptable to us. During Cuba's term in the Chair of the Conference on Disarmament, and subsequently from our position as coordinators of the Group of 21, we have made every effort to bring this matter to a positive solution. So it would now appear necessary for efforts to continue to bring this matter to a positive solution, and in that regard we also think that this should be done in as short a space of time as possible. This delegation would also be happy if in these efforts it can continue to count on the assistance of the Special Coordinator.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I thank Mrs. Bauta Solés, the representative of Cuba, for her statement, and I now call on the representative of Colombia.

Mr. SALAZAR (Colombia) (translated from Spanish): First and foremost, Mr. President, allow me to express our admiration to you for the way in which you have conducted the work of this Conference. We also wish to thank Ambassador O'Sullivan for his efforts to achieve a proposed consensus on the means of expanding the Conference on Disarmament. My delegation regrets that, following long months of consultations, the Conference is not capable of taking a positive decision on the expansion of this Conference at this moment; we think that this can only hamper the effectiveness of the Conference's activities. Although we understand the concern expressed by some delegations in accepting the participation of some countries in the Conference, we think that it is inherent in multilateral negotiations that all parties concerned should be seated around the same table. This is particularly true of disarmament consultations. Therefore we cannot share in the views of those delegations that oppose the participation of certain countries. Finally, we hope that the Conference on Disarmament will soon be in a position to adopt a decision in this regard, preferably by admitting all those countries that have expressed an interest in participating in its work.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I thank the representative of Colombia for his statement and for his kind words to the Chair, and I now call on the representative of Turkey.

Mr. ARAR (Turkey) (translated from French): I will be brief. I have taken the floor just to say that in the light of the Iranian and American attitudes, my delegation has nothing to say. I would also like to add that in the light of this new situation that has emerged today, Turkey reserves the right to revise its position concerning the CD and its work in the future.

Mr. HOU (China) (translated from Chinese): Like many other countries, China is of the view that the expansion of the membership of the CD is an important and urgent matter. It must be settled as a matter of priority and as soon as possible. We thank the President for his outstanding efforts and vigorous leadership in this regard. We would also like to thank the Coordinator, the distinguished Ambassador of Australia, Mr. O'Sullivan, for the important efforts and contribution he has made. His report and his

(Mr. Hou, China)

statement are both very positive in our view. We would also like to pay tribute to various delegations, including those of many non-members, for their efforts in this regard.

The Chinese delegation is of the view that the expansion of the membership of the CD is an important, sensitive and complex issue. Its solution is a process of evolution. It cannot be dealt with in a totally perfect and instantaneous manner. We think that the proposal put forward by Ambassador O'Sullivan is a positive compromise in this process of evolution. The Chinese delegation has always actively participated in the consultations and has made its own contributions. We originally intended to join the consensus on this proposal, and we are ready to welcome the new members. It is regrettable that we failed to achieve a consensus today. We understand the sense of disappointment expressed by many delegations of members and non-members. We sympathize with their sentiments. At the same time, we also agree with their views that we must continue to strive. The Chinese delegation would like to stress that the CD is the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. The CD must be further strengthened and expanded on an appropriate basis, particularly at present, when the CD faces new challenges and new opportunities. The CD finds itself at a very important stage. It faces the problem of a solution of NSA, TIA and very soon it must initiate a negotiation on CTBT. Under these circumstances, it requires more than ever the broad participation of the international community. Broad representation is very important. This will contribute to the further improvement of the efficiency of the CD and the strengthening of its role. For this reason, the Chinese delegation hopes that all parties will continue to make an effort and show the necessary spirit of compromise and cooperation, speed up consultations and bring about a proper solution to the membership issue as soon as possible, so that the world community will not be disappointed. The Chinese delegation would like to pledge that, as always, it will continue to participate in the consultation and work for the early achievement of a consensus on this matter, so that we can welcome the new members as soon as possible and work together with them to meet the new challenges and opportunities.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I thank Ambassador Hou Zhitong, the representative of China, for his statement and for his kind words, and I now call on the representative of the Republic of Korea.

Mr. MOON (Republic of Korea): Mr. President, please allow me to congratulate you on your assumption of the chairmanship of this important body. My delegation highly appreciates the tenacious efforts made by you and Ambassador O'Sullivan in particular to seek the solution of the question of membership expansion during this session. As a delegation which has been anxious to join CD as a full member and has actively participated in the activities of CD as an observer, my delegation cannot but express disappointment at today's unexpected development here in the CD. Taking into account that we have a lot of disarmament issues to be tackled promptly in the enlarged CD beginning next year, my delegation would like to join previous speakers who urged the earliest solution of this issue before the end of this year.

Mr. DEMBINSKI (Poland): Mr. President, I would like very briefly to thank you for your efforts at this very crucial moment of this 1993 session of the CD. I would like also to thank Ambassador O'Sullivan for his efforts to work out a formula for the expansion of the CD. My delegation regrets very much that no consensus was reached on this very balanced and dynamic formula proposed by Ambassador O'Sullivan concerning the expansion of this Conference. As a result, this body now runs the risk of seeing the international community no longer consider it as a body which should be entrusted with the task of negotiating instruments fundamental for the survival of humanity. I think that we can say periculum in mora - there is danger in delay. For this reason I very strongly support the proposal by the delegates of France, of India and other delegates in appealing to you, Mr. President, and to Ambassador O'Sullivan to undertake all possible efforts in order to find a solution to the problem before the end of the present session.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I thank Ambassador Dembinski of Poland for his statement, for his kind words addressed to the Chair and the confidence he has placed in the President, and I now give the floor to the representative of Morocco, Mr. Zniber.

Mr. ZNIBER (Morocco) (translated from French): The question of the expansion of the membership of the Conference was among the most important subjects to be dealt with during the proceedings of the present session of the Conference. And my delegation entertained the hope that the Conference, as it had undertaken to do in last year's report, would manage to achieve a positive solution to the question of its expansion at the closure of the present proceedings. Unfortunately, we regret the deadlock now facing the Conference. Nevertheless, we continue to believe that the expansion of the membership of the Conference will represent an achievement for the single multilateral disarmament body and strengthen its credibility at a time when it is preparing to embark on negotiations of prime importance. My delegation will support you, Sir, in any efforts that you deem it necessary to undertake in order to achieve a positive solution as soon as possible on this issue.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I thank Mr. Zniber, the representative of Morocco, for his kind words. Although the list of speakers has been closed, there are two other delegations - Sri Lanka and Iran - that have asked for the floor, provided that there are no objections and we have no other speakers so that we can close this meeting and conclude all the business on our agenda. If there is no objection I will now give the floor to the representative of Sri Lanka.

Mr. FAROUQUE (Sri Lanka): Sorry for taking the floor at the last minute. Sir, we have expressed our sincere gratitude to you on an earlier occasion; I now take the floor to pay our tribute to the Special Coordinator, Ambassador O'Sullivan. We are profoundly grateful to Ambassador O'Sullivan for carrying out the task entrusted to him in an outstanding manner. His impartiality is not disputed. Specially given the delicate and complex nature of the issue he handled, he deserves all the commendations expressed by the delegations who spoke before me. We also share the feeling of disappointment expressed by those observer delegations who eagerly awaited a decision so that

(Mr. Farouque, Sri Lanka)

they could effectively contribute to the work of the Conference. The package proposed by Ambassador O'Sullivan after intensive consultation reflects in our view a very delicate balance. It is sad and unfortunate that we are not in a position at this moment to take a positive decision regarding the expansion. Sir, as suggested by many delegations we encourage you, along with the Special Coordinator, to further explore the possibility of reaching a consensus on this issue before we close our meetings for this year. You have time and again demonstrated unquestionable impartiality and brilliance in rescuing this Conference from many situations like this to the satisfaction of all. My delegation has full confidence in you and we support, along with other delegations, your efforts to arrive at a consensus.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I thank Mr. Farouque, the representative of Sri Lanka, for his statement, for his kind words addressed to me and for the confidence he has expressed in me. I now give the floor to Ambassador Nasseri of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. NASSERI (Islamic Republic of Iran): I sincerely apologize for having been compelled to take the floor again, but since in the interventions today indirect references were made to our position expressed last week, and then particularly in view of the comments by our colleague from Turkey, a country very close to Iran, I wish for clarification to state that my delegation was prepared not to stand in the way of consensus and a decision could have been made as early as today and we, as Iran, would have been enthusiastic to welcome a number of new members to the CD, as a result of efforts - your efforts, Sir - and consultations that were held by you during the last few days, and on the basis of the ensuing understanding. The United States position, however, to veto the consensus as expressed today has created a new situation for the CD and for us as well. And thus my delegation has now to reserve its position until matters are further cleared and clarified.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I thank Ambassador Nasseri of the Islamic Republic of Iran for his statement. France has asked for the floor. If there are no objections, I will give you the floor. I hope that this will be for a very brief statement. So France has the floor for the second time.

Mr. BESANCENOT (France) (translated from French): Forgive me for taking the floor again, but I promise that this will be very brief. I simply wished to emphasize the fact that we have heard a number of statements which in the view of my delegation are fairly encouraging, and in view of these new elements, we wondered whether it would not be possible to defer the meeting of the plenary of the Conference until tomorrow afternoon in order to give you a little more time to try to arrive at a result in your consultations.

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): Thank you, we will think about the points you have just raised.

(continued in Arabic)

I now give the floor to Ambassador O'Sullivan, Special Coordinator on this subject.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN (Australia): It has been a long morning and many things have been said, but I think it would be remiss of me in view of the responsibilities conferred by the Conference if I did not make some remarks.

First of all, I should like to thank all the colleagues who have been kind enough to comment favourably on the efforts that I have made so far as its Special Coordinator for the expansion of its membership. I have to say that as I listened to these many comments I began to wonder if there was not an inverse correlation between the public approbation I was enjoying and the lack of positive outcome up to this point.

Mr. President, I also need to put on record my gratitude for the great efforts that you have been making in recent days. It's very disappointing that consensus is not yet achieved, because the international community has been waiting for a long time to have this issue of the expansion of the Conference resolved satisfactorily. It's disappointing also because I believe that at 9.30 this morning there was a consensus going to be achieved. Subsequent events have proved that not to be the case, but it does give me some basis for being encouraged to continue the work.

I think it should be emphasized that the question of expansion of the Conference on Disarmament is not some sort of international beauty contest. It's not a referendum on bilateral relationships. It's not a question of who likes whom. My mandate was to try to produce a recommendation for an expansion that would enhance the capacity of the Conference to discharge its function as the sole multilateral negotiating body of the international community. I emphasize the word "negotiating" because the concept of negotiation necessarily implies having a range of views represented. I believe it would be a mistake to close the door on expansion when we are in fact close to agreement. The overwhelming majority of CD members and observers want a process of expansion now and a continuation of that process on an agreed basis in the near future. It's just not credible for any single delegation to frustrate this widespread desire. Nevertheless, for the second, for this moment, I should like to apologize to the non-members who have been waiting very patiently and for so long for this matter to be resolved. I believe that with some mutual respect and tolerance and taking up the ideas that the delegate of France and others have mentioned about some further intensive consultations, and without trying to impose any concept of distinctions between members, a consensus might still be achieved. At the very least, I believe we should agree that the expansion process will be continued and that we should agree we will make an early, positive decision on an expansion.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I wish to thank Ambassador O'Sullivan for his statement, which is full of optimism. I would like to add my own voice to that of my colleagues who have thanked you very sincerely for all the efforts you have made, and personally I wish once again to express my very sincere appreciation to you for your constant willingness to cooperate and support you in your efforts to find a universally acceptable solution to the problem of the expansion of the membership of this Conference on Disarmament.

We have heard several statements during this plenary on this subject and, although differences of opinion still exist concerning the list of new members, I nevertheless believe it remains possible to detect certain trends and identify certain common factors that have emerged from this morning's discussion. First of all, there is acknowledgement of the efforts that have been made over the past months with a view to presenting an acceptable formula for the expansion of the membership of the Conference, and we have all heard the degree of gratitude that has been expressed to Ambassador O'Sullivan for his efforts since the beginning of this year to present a report that would be acceptable to all. Secondly, by virtue of the efforts made by Ambassador O'Sullivan, progress has been made in 1993 in the consideration of the question of the expansion of the membership of the Conference. And it is clear that there is a desire to pursue consultations on this important subject. I think that everybody agrees on this. There is a definite importance given by all to this question. Therefore, there is a will, there is consensus about the importance of continuing consultations on this matter.

Fourthly, there is a general feeling that these consultations should take place promptly without any delay; in other words, we should begin these consultations now. Accordingly if you agree to what I am about to propose, I shall invite the Special Coordinator, Ambassador O'Sullivan, to cooperate with me - I am not asking something new of him, but I am asking him to continue to cooperate with me to try and make extra efforts that perhaps might enable us to come up with a universally acceptable formula that would be the subject of consensus before the end of this session, that is, tomorrow.

Therefore, this attempt I think deserves everyone's support. If you agree, therefore, I would propose that the meeting we were to hold tomorrow morning should be held at 3 p.m. instead of 10 a.m. Does everyone agree to this postponement?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): We will discuss this matter, together with the report, at tomorrow afternoon's meeting. We shall now take up the remaining items on our agenda.

I would now like to proceed to a matter of paramount importance, namely the United Nations budget and its implications for our work. I hope you will give your attention to this matter. The Secretary-General has circulated to all heads of delegation a copy of the statement made by him, in other words by Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, to the Fifth Committee in New York concerning

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conference services. In that statement reference was made to the grave financial crisis facing the United Nations. The Secretary-General noted that meetings in Geneva will be reduced to those that can be serviced within the existing capacity of that duty station. This means that during the coming two days we cannot exceed the time allocated to the Conference within the limits of the present budgetary appropriations. In other words, there is no question of going beyond Friday, and we must confine ourselves to normal working hours; otherwise we will incur financial expenditure for which there are no budgetary appropriations at present. I wish to make this clear and hope that you will assist me in ensuring compliance, because very strict instructions have been issued to the secretariat to abide by the decisions taken by the Secretary-General.

In connection with our last plenary meeting tomorrow, I should like to inform you that the secretariat is preparing a revision to document CD/WP.445. It will be available this afternoon in English and in other languages tomorrow at 3 p.m. This document will form the basis for the adoption of the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament, as well as the reports of the ad hoc committees. The last plenary meeting will be held tomorrow, Friday, 3 September, at 3 p.m., and on that occasion we shall adopt all the documents containing the various sections of the report to the General Assembly of the United Nations, in addition to considering the Special Coordinator's report on the expansion of the membership of the Conference, if we can reach consensus on that question. There is no other business for today. The next plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament will take place tomorrow, 3 September, at 3 p.m.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/PV.665
3 September 1993

ENGLISH

FINAL RECORD OF THE SIX HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIFTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
on Friday, 3 September 1993, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Mounir Zahran (Egypt)

GE.93-62627 (E)

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I declare open the 665th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

We shall now proceed to the adoption of the reports of the ad hoc committees of the Conference. Does any delegation wish to speak before we take action? I see no one asking for the floor. I now put before the Conference for adoption the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, contained in document CD/1217. Can I consider that this document has been adopted?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): We shall now proceed to the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency in Armaments, which has been circulated as document CD/1218. Can I take it that the Conference adopts the report?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): We shall now turn to the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Effective International Arrangements to Assure Non-nuclear-weapon States against the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons. The report appears in document CD/1219. Can I consider that this report has been adopted?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): Last but not least, I put before the Conference for adoption the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban, circulated in document CD/1220. Does the Conference adopt the report? I believe that you are happy to do so.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): Before we proceed to other matters I would like to ask whether any delegation wishes to comment on the report that has just been adopted. I see no one asking for the floor. We shall now turn, then, to the report submitted by the Special Coordinator on expansion, Ambassador Paul O'Sullivan of Australia, which is contained in document CD/1214, and the statement delivered by him at the 663rd plenary meeting, which is an integral part of this report. On this occasion, then, I think that I have to say that as far as this report is concerned I shall continue informal consultations in the period to come in order to reach a consensus solution and I shall be in contact with all of you in this connection in the inter-sessional period.

We shall now proceed to the annual report of the Conference. I would like to remind you that we have already held an informal meeting during which we completed the first reading of the technical parts. In accordance with the practice of the Conference, this second reading will be done section by section. As already noted, the blank spaces will be filled in by the

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secretariat and the reports which are integral parts of the annual report will be added to it after its adoption, so that they will appear in the official document contained in the report. I also wish to point out that all the official documents circulated so far have been included, up to document CD/1221.

We shall begin with chapter I - "Introduction". Are there any comments? None. We move on to chapter II - "Organization of work of the Conference", section A entitled "1993 session of the Conference". Are there any comments on this section? None. Section B then, entitled "Participants in the work of the Conference". Are there any comments on this section? None. Section C, "Agenda and programme of work for the 1993 session" - are there any comments? I see no comments. Section D - I give the floor to Ambassador Kamal of Pakistan.

Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan): I presume that we are discussing, in second reading, the organization of the work of the Conference, as a full chapter. Am I right, Sir?

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): Section by section.

Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan): I have a comment only on section G when we come to it. Are you at section G or not yet?

The PRESIDENT: C.

Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan): You are at C.

The PRESIDENT: C.

Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan): I'm sorry. I misunderstood. I have a comment on G whenever you come to it, Sir.

The PRESIDENT: Geem in Arabic.

(continued in Arabic)

Section D, then - "Attendance and participation of States not members of the Conference". We have added here in paragraph 10 the non-member State Slovakia, the Republic of Slovakia, as we agreed before, and which was invited to participate in our work yesterday. Are there any comments? No comments. Then we move to section E, "Expansion of the membership of the Conference". In paragraph 13 the name of Ambassador Paul O'Sullivan has been added. We have also included a new paragraph 14 to reflect the statement made by the Special Coordinator on 26 August, and thus we have concluded this section. Are there any comments on section E? I am sorry. Adding to the aforementioned in section E, let me repeat it. Section E, "Expansion of the membership of the Conference". I would like to call attention to

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paragraph 13, where the name of Ambassador Paul O'Sullivan has been added. We have also included a new paragraph 14 to reflect the statement made by the Special Coordinator on 26 August, and we are also adding another paragraph in English:

(continued in English)

"At the 664th and 665th plenary meetings the Conference discussed the report of the Special Coordinator for membership. Many delegations made statements (CD/PV.664 and 665)."

(continued in Arabic)

Are there any comments on this? Section E. I give the floor to the representative of Malaysia.

Mr. GANAPATHY (Malaysia): I wish to draw your attention to paragraph 12, regarding requests for membership, and the list would appear to omit the request submitted by Malaysia. May I take it that this is not comprehensive at this moment and that it will be included at a later stage?

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Malaysia for his remark. There was an omission of the name of your country and it will be duly added. I apologize for this omission. Thank you. Now I invite Ambassador Steve Ledogar, the representative of the United States, to take the floor.

Mr. LEDOGAR (United States of America): Mr. President, I just would like to ask a question. Isn't it important to add to this short additional paragraph that would become paragraph 15 some words to the effect that no conclusion was reached by the Conference and that, as you just said before you began, that you intend to continue on this subject?

The PRESIDENT: I thank Ambassador Ledogar for his remark, and I think you have heard the suggestion made by Ambassador Ledogar to that effect, and I see no objection to that, and we can add that no conclusion was reached at this stage. Thank you. And as I told you I continue my consultations on this matter with a view to trying to get a consensus on this matter in the coming period, and I'll keep the coordinators and the members informed of the result and the progress of my consultations. Ambassador Ahmad Kamal, the representative of Pakistan.

Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan): Mr. President, would you have the kindness to read out the exact sentence that will be added to this paragraph?

The PRESIDENT: I give the floor to Ambassador Berasategui, the Secretary-General. Will you read it, please?

Mr. BERASATEGUI (Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations): If I understood correctly the proposal, we would add, at the end of the text and before the reference to the two PVs, the following text: "No conclusion was reached at this stage. The President of the Conference will continue consultations to achieve consensus during the inter-sessional period".

The PRESIDENT: I thank the Secretary-General. May I move now to the next section?

(continued in Arabic)

Section F, "Improved and effective functioning of the Conference". Are there any comments? None. Section G, "Communications from non-governmental organizations". Are there any comments on section G?. Now we shall proceed to chapter III, entitled "Substantive work of the Conference during its 1993 session", which appears in paragraphs 22 to 28 of the document. Are there any comments on this part? No comments. Then, section A, "Nuclear test ban". Are there any comments? None, thank you. We shall now move to section B, "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament". As agreed at the previous informal meeting, we have added a sentence in paragraph 32, and there are also references in paragraphs 34, 40 and 41, as previously agreed upon, and in section B we have also added document CD/1221. These additions were agreed upon at the previous informal meeting to amend these paragraphs that I have just referred to. Are there any comments? I see none.

Then, we move on to section C, "Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters". Are there any comments? I see no comments. Section D, "Prevention of an arms race in outer space". Are there any remarks, any comments? None. Thank you. Section E, "Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons". Are there any comments on this section E? None. I thank you. We move to section F, "New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons". Are there any comments on section F? None? Section G, "Comprehensive programme of disarmament". Any comments, any remarks? None. Section H, "Transparency in armaments". Any comments? I see none. Section I, "Consideration of other areas dealing with the cessation of the arms race and disarmament and other relevant measures". Are there any comments? I see none. Section J, "Consideration and adoption of the annual report of the Conference and any other report as appropriate to the General Assembly of the United Nations". Any comments? I see none.

We have thus concluded the second reading of the technical parts of the draft report. Before we proceed to take action, I would like to ask if any delegation wishes to make a statement at this stage. I see no delegation which wishes to do so. I suggest that we now adopt the annual report to the

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General Assembly of the United Nations at its forty-eighth session, contained in document CD/WP.445/Rev.1, and the reports adopted today, as amended in the form agreed upon. If there is no objection I will consider that the Conference adopts the annual report.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I congratulate you on this and I would like to ask if any delegation wishes to make a statement after the adoption of the report. I give the floor to the delegation of Poland.

Mr. PAC (Poland): Mr. President, in connection with the adoption of the CD report for 1993, in my delegation's capacity as the coordinator of the East European Group and on its behalf I should like to place on record the Group's interest in the chairmanship of the Ad-Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban when such a subsidiary body of the Conference on Disarmament is re-established at the beginning of the CD 1994 session. As will be recalled, the regional group of Eastern Europe has not yet had the opportunity to chair that particular Ad Hoc Committee.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Poland and his intervention will be noted.

(continued in Arabic)

I thank you. I would like to give the floor to the distinguished representative of Cuba.

Mrs. BAUTA SOLES (Cuba) (translated from Spanish): Mr. President, I would like first and foremost to congratulate you on the result of our work that we have just adopted, and also to congratulate the rest of our colleagues. The point that has just been raised by the coordinator of the Eastern European Group undoubtedly merits further consideration, and it is my delegation's formal suggestion that this is a point on which you should carry out the necessary consultations. With this Commission, which is a formal proposal by my delegation, I would like to thank you for having given me the floor.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I thank the distinguished representative of Cuba. I have taken note of your statement and I shall naturally continue the consultations on this question too in the inter-sessional period. We have thus concluded our work on the report concerning the 1993 session of the Conference, and before concluding I would like to give the floor to the Secretary-General of the Conference and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, who wishes to make a brief statement at this stage.

Mr. BERASATEGUI (Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations) (translated from Spanish): On the occasion of the last plenary meeting of the Conference in the 1993 session, I should like to make a short statement, since this is also my last plenary meeting in my current post and I should like therefore to take my leave of you on submitting my resignation from the post I occupy. In doing this I should like to assure you that, in the weeks that remain for me until the beginning of December to carry out the necessary administrative formalities, I shall take appropriate measures to maintain continuity in the work and make the necessary preparations so that the 1994 session of the Conference will begin normally.

The work that I have been carrying out in the secretariat of the Conference since 24 January 1979, and before that as a representative of my country for seven years, covers a lengthy period in my life. It is therefore not surprising that I leave you with the feelings that one has having concluded an important stage in one's personal and professional life and moving forward to a new stage, with the challenges that that implies. At the same time, I feel very pleased to be able to serve my country once again in its Foreign Service, to which I have had the honour to belong from a very young age, and to which I shall devote my best efforts in the coming years.

I am sure that I take with me the friendship of all of you. This friendship has a special significance for me, and I will continue to value it as a precious gift from my professional activities. To my colleagues and friends in the secretariat, all my gratitude for their devotion and impeccable work. I would not like to mention names so as not to omit any, but I would like to single out Mrs. Yvonne Santa Eugenia and Miss Anne Dolan, the two people who assisted me directly in recent years in the two posts that I have occupied, with their exceptional competence and sense of responsibility, beyond their normal obligations. To our interpreters, whom I have always considered as the best professionals in their delicate speciality, and the technical services, which have made it possible on countless occasions for the documentation always to be available when it was needed, even when the deadlines were tight, my gratitude for so many years of excellent cooperation.

I must state frankly that the secretariat offers a special example of administrative organisation, subject not only to the rules that are common to all structures of this kind, but also to others that are specific to it. For example, it is well known that Murphy's law, according to which if anything can go wrong it will, operates in all administrative activities. This also applies to the secretariat. But my colleagues and myself can assure you that in the case of the secretariat there are various corollaries to this law that I think have been developed over years of activity, and if you will allow me I would like to list them. First, nothing is as easy as it looks. Second, everything takes longer than you think. Third, if there is a possibility of several things going wrong, the one that will cause the most damage will be the one to go wrong. Fourth, if you perceive that there are four possible ways in which a procedure can go wrong, and circumvent these, a fifth way will promptly develop. Fifth, left to themselves, things tend to go from bad to worse.

(Mr. Berasategui, Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations)

You will think that this is quite sufficient, but perhaps you have forgotten that the Conference is the only multilateral negotiating body in the international community in the area of disarmament that operates by consensus. Therefore the secretariat of the Conference is subject to certain rules that are exclusive to this body that we all consider to be unique. Allow me to mention them briefly. First, the efficiency of a committee meeting is inversely proportional to the number of participants and the time spent on deliberations. Second, if you do something which you are sure will meet with everybody's approval, somebody won't like it. Third, smile ... tomorrow will be worse. Fourth - and I would say that this is the fundamental principle that guides our work in the secretariat - Murphy was an optimist.

Moving to more serious things, I do not intend to philosophize on the work of the Conference, what it should do or what it should be. It would be pretentious on my part to try to do so. But I do think that I can share with you the satisfaction that the Conference has managed to initiate the process that will lead to the negotiation of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty. This decision reaffirms the responsibilities of the Conference as the international community's multilateral negotiating body on disarmament.

I think that you have all heard me say, on more than one occasion, that I am convinced that all the States represented here have a special interest in strengthening the Conference as a forum in which they can appropriately protect their national interests in a context of international cooperation and mutual respect. On the completion of the negotiations on the chemical weapons Convention, a question arose that circulated persistently in the corridors. Now what? I never had any doubts that there would be much more to do, as was shown on other occasions with the conclusion of the agreements that preceded that Convention. Now the Conference is beginning negotiations of very great importance for the entire international community.

I would like to conclude with a personal note. As we all know, in this Conference a warm personal dialogue has been established that prevails over the differences in positions held, so it is not surprising that many of you have asked me about my future, and perhaps now I should endeavour to reply. In fact I promised some of you that I would try to do this now. The medium term is in the hands of fate, and I must not even try to predict it, but I can give you satisfaction as to the immediate future. Tonight, I shall go out to dinner with my wife, who has shared so many experiences with me and who is in the gallery, in order to celebrate her birthday.

Thank you all.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): Ambassador Berasategui, Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, allow me to express on behalf of all of us in the Conference on Disarmament our profound appreciation to you for all that you have done for this Conference of ours over the past years, both in your previous capacity as Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference and in your

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present capacity as Secretary-General of the Conference and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. You have always been ready and available to assist and advise the successive Presidents of the Conference, those currently in office as well as those incoming and outgoing. You have rendered every assistance to the meetings and have monitored the procedural aspects to facilitate the work of the Conference. It is no exaggeration to say that, due to your long experience and your tireless efforts, this has been successful. We are all sorry that you are leaving your present post, although we know you will return to serve the Government of Argentina, where you will be assuming an important post in response to the call of your nation.

Ambassador Berasategui has previously served for many years in the Argentine Diplomatic Service as head of the Organization of American States Division of the Foreign Ministry, as Alternate Representative to the sessions of the Preparatory Commission for the Denuclearization of Latin America and as head of the Argentine delegation to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament as well as his country's representative to the First Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations, among other important posts that he has held. Within the United Nations itself, Ambassador Berasategui has served as Secretary of the First Committee of the General Assembly and Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. He was also Chairman of the Working Group on Confidence- and Security-building and Verification Measures of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia in Geneva. He has also worked as a professor and a lecturer.

Allow me to say, Mr. Ambassador and Secretary-General of the Conference, that your decision was a surprise to us and we were not prepared in our minds to see you leave the Conference on Disarmament so quickly. You have an excellent memory of the evolution of the work of the present Conference on Disarmament and you have followed all the main events in the field of disarmament. You will be greatly missed. You have witnessed important events in the Conference on Disarmament, including numerous negotiations on disarmament instruments, the most recent of which was the Convention on chemical weapons on which negotiations were concluded exactly one year ago.

We had all hoped that you would be with us when we concluded another international convention, and I refer in particular to the convention which we all hope to finalize and on which, in the inter-sessional period, we shall conduct consultations, namely the comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty.

I believe we all agree on the importance of maintaining the customary consultations among the members of the Conference regarding the person who will be nominated as the successor of Ambassador Berasategui in this important post of Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in pursuance of paragraph 120 of the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, SSOD-I.

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In conclusion I would like to extend to you, dear friend, dear colleague, Ambassador Vicente Berasategui, and to your wife our best wishes for good health, happiness and continued success as you prepare to return to the beautiful capital of your country, Buenos Aires. I thank you.

I now give the floor to Ambassador Paul O'Sullivan of Australia.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN (Australia): Mr. President, I thought that Ambassador Berasategui was going to propose a special CD version of Murphy's law which says that if 36 things go right, a 37th will go wrong.

I take the floor today on behalf of the members of the Western Group to express our regret at the news that Ambassador Vicente Berasategui will shortly resign as Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament to return to national service. It is highly understandable that the Argentine Foreign Service would welcome his return given his distinguished service as a career diplomat for almost 40 years. However, the invaluable contributions of Ambassador Berasategui to the causes of disarmament mean that we cannot but regret his departure from this forum. The flawless professionalism and the consummate wisdom which has marked Ambassador Berasategui's service as Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament since his appointment in 1992 will be missed, I am sure, by all.

Ambassador Berasategui brought with him a rich experience stemming from service in positions in numerous disarmament conferences and committees both in the United Nations and in regional forums, and in particular from his time as Alternative Representative and subsequently head of the Argentine delegation to the predecessor body of the Conference on Disarmament, the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament.

More recently Ambassador Berasategui's service as Director of the Geneva Branch of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, his eight-year term as Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament, together with his service for the past two years as our Secretary-General, illustrate clearly the depth and the breadth of knowledge and experience which we are now losing.

As Secretary-General during the period in which the CD accomplished one of its most important and difficult achievements, the conclusion of the CWC, the value of Ambassador Berasategui's astute guidance and mastery of the complexities of multilateral work were exemplified.

In addition to his outstanding capacity to contribute to the goals of this Conference, we will miss the impeccable manners, the unfailing courtesy and the quiet competence of Ambassador Berasategui.

It remains for me only to thank him once again on behalf of the Western Group for his distinguished contribution to this Conference and to wish him well in his future position in his national service and to wish him and his wife long health and prosperity.

(Mr. O'Sullivan, Australia)

Mr. President, the Western Group wishes to use this occasion to record its expectation that the Conference on Disarmament will be consulted before any appointment to the positions of Secretary-General or Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference would be made.

The PRESIDENT: I thank you very much, Ambassador Paul O'Sullivan, for your statement and I think the President of the Conference shares with the Western Group and, I believe, all members of the Conference on the last remark you made about consultation with the members of the Conference on the appointment of a new Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament.

And now I invite the representative of Cuba to take the floor.

Mrs. BAUTA SOLES (Cuba) (translated from Spanish): The Group of 21 asked that I should bid a formal farewell this afternoon on its behalf to the Secretary-General of our Conference, Ambassador Vicente Berasategui. The delegations insisted that it should be duly placed on the record of this Conference that the Group has always highly appreciated the professional skills and the personal disposition of Ambassador Berasategui in his duties. They also emphasized that a note should be made of the Group's gratitude for the cooperation that Ambassador Berasategui has always shown not only to the Group of 21 and the other groups individually, but also to the Conference as a whole. A third point was also stressed, which has to do with the fact that we could not, or I could not on behalf of the Group, fail to wish Ambassador Berasategui and his distinguished wife every success in their future roles. There is, however, a fourth point that the Group did not ask me to speak about now but I am certain that it will support this, and that is to take this opportunity to wish the distinguished Mrs. Berasategui happy birthday. So I am very pleased to do so and it only remains for me, I think, to convey to both of them best wishes for success and personal happiness.

I do not wish to conclude without saying that the Group of 21, as it has already made clear in the course of the Presidential consultations, attributes special importance to the fact that in the process of the appointment of the new Secretary-General and deputy secretaries-general of this Conference the Secretary-General of the United Nations should realize and involve the opinions of the members of this Conference.

Mr. PAC (Poland): At this stage, speaking on behalf of the East European regional Group, I must say that it is very difficult to add anything to the eloquent tribute which Ambassador O'Sullivan has paid to Mr. Berasategui. However, I should like to say how much we will regret that, as it follows from the statement just read out by Ambassador Berasategui, the Conference on Disarmament will not have much longer the benefit of his disarmament expertise, diplomatic skill and the managerial experience which our distinguished Secretary-General and Personal Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General was bringing to the Conference. However, our loss is clearly the gain of Argentina's Foreign Service, to which Mr. Berasategui has been called. We wish him every success in the years ahead. On a more personal note, on behalf of the Polish delegation and on my own behalf I want to say that with the retirement of Vicente from the

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Conference on Disarmament, we shall be missing a distinguished colleague and a personal friend of years-long standing. On behalf of Ambassador Dembinski and in my own name I wish Vicente Berasategui all the best wherever he will be serving his country in the years ahead.

Mr. HOU (China) (translated from Chinese): With deep regret and also with a sense of happiness we have unexpectedly learned that Ambassador Berasategui is leaving his present post as Secretary-General. I fully endorse the speech made by you, Mr. President, on behalf of all of us. It is regrettable because Ambassador Berasategui is, as we all know, one of the best Secretaries-General. Over the years our CD has benefited a lot from his rich diplomatic experience, his vast knowledge and his very high personal qualities. He is very good at solving knotty problems. Very often questions which hi-tech and computers cannot resolve can be resolved through him. Especially when our CD is at a crucial stage we need his help more than ever. The Chinese delegation is pleased that we have had good cooperation from the Secretary-General and the secretariat. Not long ago when I served as President, I also benefited from close cooperation with him as well as his talent, wisdom and experience. We are also happy for him because he has an opportunity to serve his country better and his country will also benefit more directly from his service.

Mr. Secretary-General, we are grateful to you for all you have done for us. We wish you and your wife well and we hope greater achievements await you.

Mr. NORBERG (Sweden): Sweden is, since a few months, not a member of any group, and I can assure you that we do not always agree with what representatives of the various groups say, but tonight I am very happy. I can agree with every word said by the coordinators of the three groups regarding the professional skills and personality of Ambassador Berasategui. I know him from the time he was representing his country here in the so-called CCD, so I can testify to the fact that he is in all respects a very competent and a very pleasant and nice person. So I wish you well, success in your new post and I trust that your wife and yourself will have a very pleasant evening tonight.

Mr. LANUS (Argentina) (translated from Spanish): A few moments ago the Secretary-General of the Conference, Ambassador Vicente Berasategui, informed us of his forthcoming departure. As Vicente Berasategui is a colleague in the Argentine Foreign Service and an old and admired friend, you will understand the logical determinants of subjectivity. In the past two years we have seen important developments in the Conference on Disarmament. A multilateral treaty on chemical weapons was adopted and we are on the threshold of negotiations on another international instrument on nuclear tests which has long been awaited by the international community. At this very moment the Secretary-General, who directed our work in this delicate phase of transition and change, has announced that he is leaving his post. It is appropriate to ask what would have become of these results if we had not had his support and his calm guidance in the Conference in the many situations that have marked these intense last two years in our Conference. I do not think I am

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exaggerating when I say that it will not be easy for the Conference on Disarmament to find a successor with the relentless efficiency and discretion which such an important post requires and which found such a distinguished example in Ambassador Berasategui.

I met him a few months after I joined the diplomatic service and I have always respected him for his integrity, his beliefs and because he was a loyal friend. I have always had the benefit of his advice and opinions. As an Argentine, I am happy that the ranks of our diplomats will once again include this distinguished Ambassador. As a delegate to this Conference, I regret that we are collectively losing someone who knew how to guide us so effectively in our work as a body, always promoting the interests of the international community, as befits an international civil servant. As I say goodbye to him today, I have the exclusive pleasure of welcoming him at the same time. I would like to wish him and his wife Teresita, who is present here, much luck and happiness.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I thank the Ambassador of Argentina for his statement. Now we have come to the time when I have to make the closing statement for this Conference. At the end of the Conference on Disarmament's 1992 session there was widespread concern that the Conference on Disarmament would go through a post-chemical period of hibernation. Fortunately that concern proved to be unfounded, and we can all look back on our 1993 session after its conclusion with a measure of satisfaction. At the outset of our session and under the able guidance of Ambassador Celso Amorim, the Ambassador of Brazil at the time and its present Minister for Foreign Affairs, we were able to agree on a programme of work for the 1993 session and thus we set up four ad hoc committees to concentrate on four priority aspects in our agenda and we also agreed to continue our consultations on the issues of the improved and effective functioning of the Conference on Disarmament, the expansion of the membership, the agenda, and non-proliferation in all its aspects. The Conference, under the coordination of Ambassador Ahmad Kamal, the Ambassador of Pakistan, the Conference of Disarmament's Special Coordinator on improved and effective functioning, agreed on a number of criteria which will help to improve the effectiveness of our work in the Conference. The continuation of this endeavour in 1994 will no doubt allow for further positive developments in this field. As far as the role of coordinator of work on expansion of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament is concerned, this task was carried out patiently by Ambassador Paul O'Sullivan of Australia. Although no final decision has been reached in this connection, nevertheless there was good progress. As President of the Conference in the inter-sessional period, I pledge to continue, as we agreed, the informal consultations on this issue in the hope that a positive outcome may be achieved by consensus. Under the enlightened coordination of Ambassador Marín Bosch, the Ambassador of Mexico, useful discussions were also held in informal sessions on the question of non-proliferation in all its aspects. Given the magnitude of this issue, conclusive results were not expected. However, the informal nature of the discussions contributed to a

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better understanding of the various views and positions on the subject. On the issue of the agenda and bearing in mind the expansion exercise that the Conference has undertaken, it was agreed that it might be best to continue the consultations on this matter in 1994.

In response to paragraph (c) of General Assembly decision 47/422, which requested the Conference to transmit the results of its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations entitled "New dimensions of arms regulation and disarmament in the post-cold-war era", the Conference held a number of important meetings which resulted in the adoption of document CD/1183, entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament on the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations entitled 'New dimensions of arms regulation and disarmament in the post-cold-war-era'". Also in accordance with paragraph (c) of General Assembly decision 47/422, the Conference on Disarmament transmitted to the Chairman of the First Committee a report entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament on the ongoing review of the agenda, composition and methods of work of the Conference".

As already stated, the Conference on Disarmament agreed this year to set up four ad hoc committees, all of which I believe were able to achieve significant progress during the 1993 session. We can also say that the most significant breakthrough this year was achieved in the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban under the experienced and able chairmanship of Ambassador Tanaka of Japan. By deciding to devote much of the Committee's time, including the numerous expert presentations, to verification techniques, whether seismic or non-seismic, the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban was able to achieve positive results made possible by the declarations of the Governments of the United States, France and the Russian Federation to extend their voluntary moratoriums on nuclear testing which culminated in the adoption by the Conference of its resolution contained in document CD/1212, which constitutes a landmark in the history of disarmament negotiations, bearing in mind the positive effect that this will have on the NPT review and extension conference in 1995. The decision by the Conference on Disarmament is a landmark, as I said, in the history of disarmament negotiations. As President of the Conference on Disarmament during its inter-sessional period, I would like to assure Ambassador Tanaka that I will make every effort to facilitate the discharge of the tasks entrusted to his Committee by the Conference on Disarmament's above-mentioned decision. In addition, I am also confident that the inter-sessional period will be further put to good use by finding a negotiating mandate on a CTBT and by reaching agreement on the basis upon which our negotiations in this regard will be built in the 1994 session.

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, under the able guidance of Ambassador Wolfgang Hoffmann of Germany, has achieved significant results. The Committee focused its attention on the issue of confidence-building measures, even though it was recognized that

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these are not an end in themselves but only a means towards the attainment of the ultimate objective of the Ad Hoc Committee, namely the actual prevention of an arms race in outer space.

In the Committee on Effective International Arrangements to Assure Non-nuclear-weapon States against the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons, and under the capable leadership of Ambassador Neagu of Romania, numerous key issues were openly discussed. This has given all of us a clearer understanding of the various views and positions, and has thereby paved the way for substantive and practical achievements in the future and perhaps in the 1994 session of the Conference.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency in Armaments, which I had the honour to chair, was able to look carefully at the various issues under its mandate, as derived from General Assembly resolution 46/36L. While the discussions were not conclusive in this Committee, they did in fact result in a significant degree of mutual understanding, transparency and openness. Eighteen excellent working papers were also submitted to the Committee by various delegations and will help to enrich the discussions on this topic in the 1994 session of the Conference on Disarmament.

Last but certainly not least we succeeded today in adopting our annual report of the Conference on Disarmament for 1993, which will be submitted to the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. On this occasion I wish to congratulate all of you on the diligent work and dedication you have displayed throughout this session since last January. It will be an honour for me on behalf of all of you to introduce this report to the First Committee during the forthcoming forty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

Before concluding my statement, I also wish to assure you that, in my capacity as President of the Conference during its inter-sessional period, I intend to conduct early informal consultations with a view to facilitating the adoption of a programme of work by the Conference on Disarmament at the outset of its 1994 session. I do not wish to end my statement without expressing once again my gratitude to Ambassador Vicente Berasategui, the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, for all the guidance and support that he has given me during my presidency of the Conference. I once again express my regret that he will be leaving this post. I wish him every future success and health and happiness during his work in the service of his country, Argentina. I would also like to express my gratitude to all the members of the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament, to the interpreters in all the languages, and all those who have helped to ensure the success of this session.

In conclusion I would like to announce that the next plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament will be held on Tuesday, 25 January 1994 at 10 a.m., in accordance with the agreement reached yesterday on the dates for

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the 1994 session of the Conference on Disarmament, taking into consideration also the possibility that the President is empowered to convene a special session if we are able to reach a consensus in the informal consultations that I have pledged to carry out in the inter-sessional period. I thank you once again for your cooperation, and I would like to reiterate my best wishes for the coming period, and until we meet again - perhaps in New York, at the First Committee of the General Assembly - my best wishes to you all.

The meeting rose at 6.50 p.m.